

LONG ISLAND GROUP SINCLAIR TIMEX

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8/84

MEETING NOTES

Our last meeting was held on July 7th at Heinz H's place. Agenda was a little loose, but here is what we did:

1. Harvey R. demoed some of the attention getting diplays he's developed for use in his business (see Listing, P-4).
2. Kevin Smith showed us his Panasonic "Data" recorder. These sell for \$40. at DOA and provide a counter, automatic tone control ("data" setting) and phase reversal switch. A very well priced machine.
3. Heinz had set up his "shaper" (preliminary schematic published previously) which really shapes up the TS 1000's waveforms. Coming out of the "shaper", they all looked text-book perfect. We'll have more details on this device in a latter issue.
4. Bob M. brought along his Westridge Modem and we called the LICA bulletin board. We left a message for Al Levy to call us and browsed around a bit. This BBS is a big one and seems quite well run. We tried a few other BBS's with mixed-to-poor results. The Modem hardware seems excellent (auto dial is a nice feature), but good software just isn't here yet.
5. I tried "Firstloader" several times and we got a full run through, but apparently picked up some garbage along the way. At any rate, a working copy of FirstLoadr was included on the Library Tape #1.
6. Library tape #1 was distributed. It includes several public domain games (from U.K. magazines), FIRSTLOADR, my memory list program (used to crack Transylvania Tower), Jeff S's big character and uplot routines and some graphics demo programs. Bring a blank tape (and your recorder) to the next meeting if you want a copy.

Nazir P. was not at the meeting, but he has produced a simple word processor and cracked the other Spectrum program, "Fantasia" and will demo these, next meeting. Speaking of which:

→ Next meeting is scheduled for August 26th (Sunday) at [redacted] - 3:00PM. We decided at the last meeting that we need to have a formal "business" portion in our meetings from now on, and an agenda for the "show and tell".

The proposed agenda for next meeting then is:

- 1) Business Meeting
 - a) Call to Order and Review of last meeting
 - b) Status of the Treasury
 - c) Review of correspondence generated by and received by the group
 - d) Plan for next meeting (timing, agenda, location)
 - e) Motions from the floor (suggestions to buy hardware/software, funding for meeting site hosts, establishment of committees, election of officers, production of a charter, etc.)
- 2) Demonstration Phase
 - a) "Fantasia" game and word Processor - Nazir P.
 - b) Quickload/Fastload/Q Save/XLR8 - which is best?
We will have power and a few TV's and TS 1000's set up.
Bring your favorite quick-loading program (I have Q-Save, for example) and we'll run Benchmark tests to see which is the most reliable, fastest, etc.
- 3) General Discussion
If you've got a new toy (hardware or software), or typed in a program from a magazine, or have "rolled your own" program for a particular need, please bring it and share it with us.

Enlarged Character Modes - 2068

The ability to print characters larger than normal size, easily and rapidly, could substantially enhance the text and graphical displays of many programs. I created the following machine code routine, and associated procedures, with this ability in mind. The routine allows printing of three enlarged character modes from BASIC...

Regular Characters

Mode 2 Characters

Mode 1 Char\$

Mode 3 Char\$

MODE	HIEGHT	X	WIDTH	MAXIMUM CHAR/LN
1	1	x	2	16
2	2	x	1	31
3	2	x	2	16

Printing these character modes from BASIC will entail creating and SAVEing a two line BASIC program (which includes machine code in a REM statement). Then, you can either MERGE it with an existing program or create a new program around it. With these two lines resident in a program you 'Print' the enlarged modes using the following procedure...

```
POKE 23788,line
POKE 23729,column
POKE 23723,mode
RANDOMIZE USA FN a()
REM "char string"
```

...Just POKE the values for the mode you desire, and the line and column at which you want printing to start, into the appropriate addresses. Then call the MC routine using the RANDOMIZE USA statement followed directly by a REM statement with

your string enclosed in quotes. You can think of this procedure as a hypothetical BASIC statement...

```
PRINT MODE n; AT ln,cl;"string"
```

Line and column values are the same as normally used but when referring to the enlarged modes you are specifying the start position for the upper, leftmost portion of the character. For instance; if line=2, column=2, mode=3, and string="XTEST"...

```
column
23456789
line 2
line 3 XTEST
```

To create the routine, input the loader program below and RUN it...

```
1 REM XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2 DEF FN a()=PEEK 23635+255*P
EEK 23635+5
10 LET x=0: LET sum=0
14 ON ERR GO TO 70
20 INPUT a$
22 LET dec=VAL a$
30 POKE FN a()+x,dec
35 PRINT a$;" ";
40 LET x=x+1
50 LET sum=sum+dec
60 GO TO 20
70 ON ERR RESET
75 PRINT
80 PRINT "sum=";sum
```

Enlarged Character Modes - 2068

...it is waiting for you to input the decimal code listing; do so very carefully, you would not want to do it twice.

```

0033: 178 0002: 126 0033: 175 0002: 054
0007: 040 0008: 254 0015: 040 0004: 000
134: 024 0002: 200 1003: 040 0008: 000
0001: 004 0000: 000 0002: 034 1000: 000
040: 000 0024: 250 220: 030 177: 000
078: 000 0000: 000 0003: 004 000: 000
033: 178 0002: 126 200: 007 111: 000
000: 030 0000: 000 0005: 000 007: 000
003: 016 0000: 100 1003: 000 200: 000
170: 000 0001: 000 000: 100 200: 034
000: 050 000: 054 010: 000 001: 000
000: 034 170 220: 200 100: 001
000: 061 107 054 144 000: 000
110: 144 100 001: 000 200: 107 000
032: 144 111 000 000 000 000 000
037: 000 003 003 010 200 100 100 000
220: 000 171 000 100 200 004 001
040: 114 004 000 004 200 000 000
050: 170 000 200 100 007 000 000
030: 171 000 100 054 000 100 040
100: 000 000 040 170 000 107 001
000: 001 000 100 114 000 115 040
050: 170 000 054 001 040 000 054
000: 000 001 100 054 000 000 000
200: 000 175 000 003 070 200 100
030: 000 001 000 007 107 200 000
100: 024 007 001 024 000 107 000
050: 100 010 000 034 170 000 200
000: 000 170 000 001 000 170 000
030: 100 033 170 000 000 070 040
170: 000 040 010 001 000 007 107
207: 000 004 004 004 000 024 140
001: 001 007 107 000 000 017 171
000: 020 054 000 000 001 030 034
170: 000 200 000 000 004 100 200
024 200 024 100 000 004 030 000
000: 000 000 200 000 200 040 010
240: 000 004 200 000 200 000 000
044: 010 040 004 000 000 171 000
120: 204 001 040 000 024 210 000
000: 107 200 100 004 014 040 170
000: 114 000 110 040 001 000 001
000: 034 170 000 200 030 100 010
030: 040 170 000 001 204 007 107
207: 050 034 170 000 200 030 000
034: 100 200 024 140 120 120 120
120: 120 120

```

Sum=34865

When you've entered the last decimal code, input an "s"; the program will respond by printing a value called "sum". It should equal 34865, if it doesn't you will have to reinput the code. If you got the correct value, delete program lines 10 through 80 and SAVE the remaining lines. With line 1 and 2 still resident in the computer you are ready to experiment with the procedure I outlined earlier for generating the enlarged characters. But before you do...

You will notice that a manual or automatic attempt at LISTING the line 1 REM statement causes a spurious error report. This occurs because the MC code contains values that the system uses for color code markers. This causes annoying interference with program development and editing. Luckily we can circumvent the problem by doing the following...

1. LIST 2
2. POKE 23660,30
3. Avoid the following...
 - a. LIST
 - b. LIST 1
 - c. Moving the edit cursor onto line 1

Also, a few words of caution: I included no error trapping in the mc routine. Line and column values out of range could be disastrous, mode values other than 1-3 default printing to mode 2. Wrap around printing was not explicitly designed into the code. Mode 1 will usefully exhibit this behavior, the others will not.

WERE TO BUY IT

Here is 47th Street Photo's latest ad:

TIMEX *sinclair*

TIMEX 2068 PACKAGE

72K Color Computer • 2020 Recorder •
Alphacom 3 40-column Printer • Two
extra software cassettes.

Orig \$350
Now Only **\$179⁹⁵**

TIMEX TS-1500

16K Computer

Now Only **\$59⁹⁵**

ALPHACOM 40 column printer
(for all Timex computers) **\$49.95**

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USERS GOING TS 2068 IN BUSINESS

Harvey Rait runs his own small business, a Carvel Ice Cream store, in Valley Stream. To attract customers attention, and at the same time entertain and inform them about his latest promotions, sales, etc., Harvey uses the outstanding color graphics capabilities of the Times 2068.

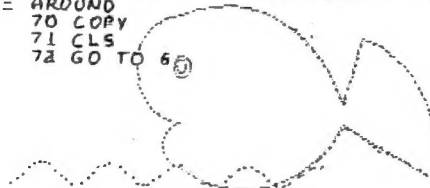
An example of one of many special programs which Harvey has written is shown below. Note how he has made very good use of the Draw, Plot and Circle commands.

Just about any retail business should be able to benefit from using the TS 2068's "advertizing" capabilities.

```

22 INK 2
24 PRINT "
KE WHALE-OF-A-CA
25 PLOT 240,70
26 DRAW -40,64,.5*PI
27 DRAW -10,-30
28 DRAW -90,40,.5*PI
29 DRAW 0,-50,PI
30 DRAW 0,-20,PI
31 DRAW 90,-20,.5*PI
32 DRAW 50,-24
33 CIRCLE 100,120,5
34 INK 2: CIRCLE 100,120,3
50 FOR I=-20 TO 20 STEP .5
51 PLOT I*6+127,70+5*SIN I
52 NEXT I
55 PRINT INK 2: AT 13,1:"
56 PRINT INK 2," PUDDIE THE
PRICED AT $9.95 IT'S THE LOWEST
PRICE AROUND
WHALE-OF-A-CAKE
61 PRINT "PRINT "9990
AT $9.95 IT'S THE LOWEST PRICE
AROUND
70 COPY
71 CLS
72 GO TO 60

```



There are times when even ZX PRO/FILE misses a sort, particularly when you're looking through long strings of numbers, reports Kevin Smith. PRO/FILE only compares 2 digits at a time.

Kevin's Fix for that little problem is the following piece of machine code. You can add the program lines shown, or just POKE the values in from immediate mode.

```

      THIS PART CHANGES  

      EXISTING CODE

```

UNPLOTing on the 2068

Recently, while writing a "Drawing" program, I started to realize the limitations of character oriented color graphics. My problem was that I wanted to unplot points, but there isn't an UNPLOT command. PLOTTing over existing points with PAPER color is an alternative, but in my application the idiosyncracies of character oriented color caused unwanted effects. My only recourse was to write my own UNPLOT routine.

The product of one nights labor in machine language programming, here it is. Type in the following loader program, and RUN it...

```
POKE 23728,Y-coordinate
POKE 23729,X-coordinate
RANDOMIZE USR FN a()
```

You will notice that a manual or automatic attempt at LISTING the line 1 REM statement causes a spurious error report. This occurs because the MC code contains values that the system uses for color code markers. This causes annoying interference with program development and editing. Luckily we can circumvent the problem by doing the following...

1. LIST 2
2. POKE 23567,30
3. Avoid the following...
 - a. LIST
 - b. LIST 1
 - c. moving the edit cursor onto line 1

FIG. 1

[illegible][illegible]

Sum = 8422

```

...it is waiting for you
to input the decimal code list
(Fig1)do so carefully. When
you've entered the last decimal
code, input an 's'; the program
will respond by printing a
value called 'Sum'. It should
be 8422, if it isn't you will
have to reinput the decimal code

```

```

      If you got the correct value
delete program lines 10 through
80 and SAVE the rest of the
program. With the two lines of
this program MERGED into any
other you UNPLOT using the fol-
lowing procedure....

```

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SOFTWARE/HARDWARE RECEIVED

COMPASS

Two 2068 programs on one cassette, one is an assembler, the other a compiler. The compiler was reviewed in Syntax July/84. I basically agree with that review (a nice try, but too limited). If you have HOT Z or Zeus and would like to write a comparison review of these assemblers, let us know and we'll provide you with this submission. These are from JRC (John Richard Coffey), POB 448, Scottsburry, Indiana 471070. (812)-752-6071

WINKY BOARD 2000

The Winky Board helps you load/save and copy tapes, by "conditioning" the signals to and from your computer and tape recorder. The 2000 seems to do the job, and while it won't solve all your problems, I feel no time owner should be without one. G. Russel Electronics, RD 1 Box 539, Centre Hall, Pa. 16828

EVEREST ASCENT

A strategy type word game, Everest Ascent pits your wits against Mount Everest. You must choose a team of sherpas and the right equipment and supplies necessary to reach the top. Originally not runnable, because it was a Spectrum program (all in BASIC), we have adjusted it to run on the 2058. Richard Shephard Software (UK).

VENDORS

Sunset Electronics
2254 Taraval Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94116
(415) 665-8330

One of the most complete catalogs. They have almost everything for your ZX/TS & 2068. Price is reasonable.

Zebra Systems
78-06 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421
(212) 296-2385
(212) 296-2229 BBS

Zebra's line is just about as comprehensive as Sunset. Note the free Bulletin Board Service (BBS)

Secondbase
700 Lexington Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16601
(814) 942-1871

Keyboard overlay for the TS/1000. Gives you raised keys - \$15.00.

WMJ Data Systems
4 Butterfly Drive
Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788

Household & Business software for the ZX & 2068

Microaide
1401 Oak Tree Road
Iselin, N.J. 08830
(201) 283-1910

Out of Warranty repairs (Henry Garcia)

Quick Silva Inc.
426 West Nakoma
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(512) 340-3684

Games, Games & more Games

WHAT IS LIST

LIST is a not-for profit User's Group, dedicated to the exchange of information and ideas, about Times/Sinclair computers, the expansion of computer literacy and public service to anyone interested in TS computers.

L.I.S.T. is published once/month and covers the actions of the group, programs, reviews and articles of interest to ZX/TS computer users. Membership in LIST is \$12.00/year and includes subscription to L.I.S.T.ing. Membership year is February to January.

Sample copy sent upon receipt of large SASZ.

Copies provided on exchange basis with other bona fide user groups.

Free copies available for pickup at 10 Idle Day Drive, while supplies last.

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LATE BREAKING NEWS

- 1) Finally got in touch with Al Levy of LICA. He will come to our September meeting and give us a presentation on LICA.
- 2) COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS - Magazine reports that Sinclair is negotiating with Samsung Electronics, South Korea, for the manufacture of ZX81's and Spectrums.

LIST IS AT:

Box 438
Centerport, N.Y. 11721

QUIRKS & QUANDARIES

Using Jeff Street's "EXPND" program turned up an interesting foible in our 2068. You may recall that the graphic character "I" on the Spectrum prints out as the keyword "STICK" in some BASIC programs (e.g., Transylvanian Tower).

However, when we put "STICK" in a REM statement for EXPND to operate upon, we get the original graphic line character. There must be different tables operating here.

LIST GROUP

PE